

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please cancel claims 1-28 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

(2) Please add new claims 29-54.

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (New): A dispensing closure for dispensing at least one product into a container having a neck portion with which said closure is to engage, said dispensing closure comprising:

a body having an outer wall portion adapted to engage an outer surface of the container neck to releasably secure said closure to the container;

a compartment to contain at least one product to be dispensed, said compartment being adapted to fit at least partly within the container neck and being defined by a substantially cylindrical side wall, a top wall and a frangible bottom wall;

a cutting means moveable relative to said side wall and said frangible bottom wall to break open said frangible bottom wall of said compartment to selectively dispense contents of said compartment into the container; and

a means restricting inadvertent relative movement of said cutting means, said closure and product to be dispensed being assembled together prior to application of the closure to the container neck.

Claim 30 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 29, wherein said outer wall portion of said body is substantially cylindrical, and said body further includes a coaxial inner wall adapted to engage within the container neck.

Claim 31 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 30, wherein said outer wall portion of said body is provided with internal threads adapted to threadingly engage a threaded neck of a container to which said closure is to be fitted.

Claim 32 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 30, wherein said inner wall closely engages within the container neck, and said compartment fits within said inner wall.

Claim 33 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 32, wherein said compartment is separate from said body and is interconnected thereto to facilitate relative rotation therebetween about the axes thereof.

Claim 34 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 33, wherein an upper end of said compartment is formed with a rim having engaging means to engage corresponding engaging means on said closure body whereby said compartment is assembled to said body and is rotatable relatively thereto.

Claim 35 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 34, wherein said compartment and said body are able to be snap-fitted together so that said compartment is able to rotate about its axis relative to said body.

Claim 36 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 35, wherein said bottom wall of said compartment extends at an angle to a plane perpendicular to the axis.

Claim 37 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 36, wherein said cutting means includes a cutting knife carried on a flange extending generally radially inwardly from a lower edge portion of an inner wall of said body, said flange being axially spaced from said frangible bottom wall of said compartment, said knife extending in a generally axial direction from said flange towards said frangible bottom wall.

Claim 38 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 36, wherein said cutting means includes a cutting knife extending axially from said top wall of said compartment inwardly of said compartment side wall and movable about the axis, and wherein on relative movement of said knife, said frangible bottom wall is brought into contact with said knife which cuts and breaks open said bottom wall from said compartment permitting contents thereof to be dispensed into the container to which said closure is fitted.

Claim 39 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 31, wherein said compartment and body are integral such that said cylindrical side wall of said compartment constitutes an inner wall of said body, and a substantially cylindrical band engages with an outer surface of said side wall adjacent its free edge, said band having a generally radially inwardly extending flange carrying said cutting means.

Claim 40 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 39, wherein said cutting means is a cutting knife which extends from said flange in a generally axial direction towards said top wall.

Claim 41 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 40, wherein said cutting knife is housed in a pocket formed in said side wall of said compartment, said cutting knife being movable about the axis of said compartment to be released from said pocket so as to then cut said bottom wall at least partly from the container to allow the product in said compartment to pass into the container.

Claim 42 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 35, wherein said cutting means includes a cutting knife carried on a flange extending generally radially inwardly from a lower edge portion of an inner wall of said body, said flange being axially spaced from said frangible bottom wall of said compartment, said knife extending in a generally axial direction from said flange towards said top wall, said cutting knife being housed in a pocket formed in said side wall of said compartment, said cutting knife being movable about the axis of said compartment to be released from said pocket so as to then cut said bottom wall at least partly from said container to allow the product in said compartment to pass into the container.

Claim 43 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 36, wherein said compartment is axially moveable relative to said cutting means to cause said cutting means to cut said frangible bottom wall.

Claim 44 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 43, wherein said cutting means comprises a cutting knife integrally moulded with a wall of said closure, said knife having at least two cutting edges extending at an acute angle to each other.

Claim 45 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 36, wherein said cutting means comprises a knife edge formed on a lower edge portion of an internal wall extending from said compartment top wall, said top wall being axially movable relative to said bottom wall to cause said knife edge to cut away at least a portion of said bottom wall to allow the product in said compartment to pass into the container.

Claim 46 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 45, wherein a centre portion of said top wall is resiliently axially movable relative to said closure body, and said internal wall is connected to said centre portion to be movable therewith whereby said frangible bottom wall is cut by a resilient axial movement of said centre portion.

Claim 47 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 29, wherein said body includes, on a lower edge of said outer wall, a tamper proof evidence release band to provide an indication of tampering with said closure prior to its use.

Claim 48 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 29, wherein said body includes, on an upper edge of said outer wall portion, a tab adapted to engage within an opening formed in a rim of said compartment, said tab ensuring proper alignment of said compartment and said body when assembled as well as acting to resist inadvertent relative movement of said cutting means.

Claim 49 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 29 further comprising a contents dispensing valve integrally formed with said top wall of said compartment to facilitate dispensing contents of the container after said frangible bottom wall of said compartment has been cut to allow the product in said compartment to pass into the container.

Claim 50 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 29, wherein said compartment is separated into a plurality of parts by one or more internal partitions to separately house a plurality of different products to be selectively dispensed into the container.

Claim 51 (New): A dispensing closure for a container having a neck portion, said dispensing closure comprising:

- a body having engaging means and an outer wall portion adapted to engage an outer surface of the container neck to releasably secure said closure to the container, said outer wall portion includes an upper edge having a tamper proof evidence release band to provide an indication of tampering with said closure prior to its use, wherein said outer wall portion of said body is substantially cylindrical, and said body further includes a coaxial inner wall adapted to engage within the container neck;

- a compartment to contain at least one product to be dispensed, said compartment being adapted to fit at least partly within the container neck and being defined by a substantially cylindrical side wall, a top wall and a frangible bottom wall, wherein an upper end of said compartment is formed with a rim having engaging means to engage corresponding engaging means on said closure body whereby said compartment is assembled to said body and is rotatable relatively thereto, said bottom wall of said compartment extends at an angle to a plane perpendicular to the axis;

- a cutting knife attached to said body and moveable relative to said side wall and said frangible bottom wall to break open said frangible bottom wall of said compartment to selectively dispense contents of said compartment into the container;

- a means restricting inadvertent relative movement of said cutting knife;

- a contents dispensing valve integrally formed with said top wall of said compartment to facilitate dispensing contents of the container after said frangible

bottom wall of said compartment has been cut to allow the product in said compartment to pass into the container; and

wherein said upper edge of said outer wall portion further includes a tab adapted to engage within an opening formed in a rim of said compartment, said tab ensuring proper alignment of said compartment and said body when assembled as well as acting to resist inadvertent relative movement of said cutting means.

Claim 52 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 51, wherein said cutting means includes a cutting knife carried on a flange extending generally radially inwardly from a lower edge portion of an inner wall of said body, said flange being axially spaced from said frangible bottom wall of said compartment, said knife extending in a generally axial direction from said flange towards said frangible bottom wall.

Claim 53 (New): The dispensing closure according to claim 51, wherein said cutting means includes a cutting knife extending axially from said top wall of said compartment inwardly of said compartment side wall and movable about the axis, and wherein on relative movement of said knife, said frangible bottom wall is brought into contact with said knife which cuts and breaks open said bottom wall from said compartment permitting contents thereof to be dispensed into the container to which said closure is fitted.

Claim 54 (New): A method of dispensing at least one product into a container having a neck, the method including the steps of:

providing a dispensing closure comprising a body having an outer wall portion adapted to engage an outer surface of the container neck to releasably secure said closure to the container; a compartment to contain at least one product to be dispensed, said compartment being adapted to fit at least partly within the container neck and being defined by a substantially cylindrical side wall, a top wall and a frangible bottom wall, wherein an upper end of said compartment is formed with a rim having engaging means to engage

corresponding engaging means on said closure body whereby said compartment is assembled to said body and is rotatable relatively thereto, said bottom wall of said compartment extends at an angle to a plane perpendicular to the axis; a cutting knife attached to said body and moveable relative to said side wall and said frangible bottom wall to break open said frangible bottom wall of said compartment to selectively dispense contents of said compartment into the container; and a means restricting inadvertent relative movement of said cutting knife;

placing a product to be dispensed into said compartment between said top wall and said frangible bottom wall;

sealing said frangible bottom wall to said side wall of said compartment;

assembling said compartment containing the product with said closure body;

engaging said assembled closure with a neck portion of a container into which the product is to be dispensed; and

axially moving said knife relative to the bottom wall to cause said knife to cut into said bottom wall to thereby release the contents of said compartment into the container.